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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/706,854	11/07/2000	Makoto Saitome	1614.1092	8551

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EXAMINER

GESESSE, TILAHUN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2684

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/706,854

Applicant(s)

SAOTOME ET AL.

Examiner

Tilahun B Gesesse

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/19/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of claims

1. This is in response to applicant's argument filed January 19, 2005, in which claims 1 through 22 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Matsuda.

Claims 21, **Matsuda** discloses a communication controller (30) comprising: a communication device, a computer device (20) connected to the communication device via a universal serial bus (USB) (column 3, lines 34-63), the computer device (20) sending a communication request signal to the communication device via the USB (column 3, lines 34-63) the communication device disconnecting the communication line

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when a USB signal is not detected by the communication device within a predetermined amount of time (column 3, lines 10-63). Matsuda discloses a wireless telephone connected to the communication device via a communication line (figure 1 and it's disclosure).

Claim 22. **Matsuda teaches** the communication device (30 of figure 1) comprising: an interrupt detector detecting a USB signal as a result of a communication request signal from the computer device (column 3, lines 34-63 and figure 3), and determining whether the USB signal is received within a predetermined detection time; and a line controller disconnecting the communication line when the USB signal is not received within the predetermined detection time (column 3, lines 10-63).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1,3-15,17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Matsuda (US patent no. 6,211,649) in view of Tsai et al (US patent no. 6,101,076)" Tsai"**

Claim 1, **Matsuda** discloses a communication device (USB connector 10) comprising:

Matsuda discloses detecting means for detecting a signal to a universal serial bus (USB) obtained via the USB (column 2, lines 56- column 3, lines 63 and figure 1).

Matsuda does not discloses disconnecting means for disconnecting a line that is being used for a communication when the signal peculiar to the USB is not detected by the detecting means within a predetermined time.

However, **Tsai discloses** disconnecting means for disconnecting a line that is being used for a communication when the signal peculiar to the USB is not detected by the detecting means within a predetermined time (column 3, lines 19-24). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to disconnect upon control signal is detected , as evidenced by Tsai, in order to save power or stay on sleep mode when no activity is taking place between the PC and device is coupled to the computer.

Claims 5-6. **Matsuda discloses** notifying means for providing notification of the disconnection of the line, which is being further comprising, used for the communication (column 2, lines 56- column 3, lines 63 and figure 1).

Claim 7-8,18 **Matsuda discloses** control means for re-connecting to the line which was disconnected using the log of the disconnection of the line stored in said log storage means, when restoring a computer equipment which is coupled to the communication device via the USB (column 2, lines 56- column 3, lines 63 and figure 1).

Claim 15, **Matsuda discloses** a detecting unit configured to detect a signal peculiar to a universal serial bus (USB) obtained via the USB column 2, lines 56- column 3, lines 63 and figure 1).

Matsuda does not disclose disconnecting means for disconnecting a line that is being used for a communication when the signal peculiar to the USB is not detected by the detecting means within a predetermined time.

However, **Tsai discloses** disconnecting means for disconnecting line that is being used for a communication when the signal peculiar to the USB is not detected by the detecting means within a predetermined time (column 3, lines 19-24). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to disconnect upon control signal is detected, as evidenced by Tsai, in order to save power or stay on sleep mode when no activity is taking place between the PC and device is coupled to the computer.

Claim 17, **Matsuda discloses** a notifying unit configured to notify a disconnection of the line that is being used for the communication (see figure 3).

Claim 3-4 and 9-13. Matsuda discloses the disconnecting means instructs a disconnection of the line, which is being used for the communication via a command line, with respect to a communication device (stop device operation of (column 2, lines 56- column 3, lines 63 and figure 1). Matsuda teaches wireless telephone set (30) coupled to a communication device (20) (see figure 1).

Claim 14, 19-20, Matsuda discloses the detecting means and the disconnecting means are built into one of computer equipment via the communication device (see figure 3). Matsuda teaches wireless telephone set (30) coupled to host computer (figure 1).

7. Claims 2 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda in view of Tsai as applied to claims 1 and 15 above, and further in view of Kubo.

Regarding claims 2 and 16, Matsuda in view of Tsai do not teach the signal peculiar to the USB is selected from the group consisting of a frame start (SOF) signal, an interrupt transfer request signal, a control transfer signal, and a bulk IN transfer request signal.

However, **Kubo discloses** the signal peculiar to the USB is selected from the group consisting of a frame start (SOF) signal, an interrupt transfer request signal, a control transfer signal, and a bulk IN transfer request signal (column 2, lines 1-6). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to send a transfer control signal, as evidenced by Kubo, to send control in order to connect a communication between a communication device and a couple PC for alerting the communication device.

Conclusion.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tilahun B Gesesse whose telephone number is 571-272-7879. The examiner can normally be reached on flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay Maung can be reached on 571-272-7882. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


TILAHUN GESESSE
PRIMARY EXAMINER